

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 /060 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6933
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4199

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AF, PK
SUBJECT: MILITARY COUP IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: (A) KABUL 3351 (B) STATE 108149

1. FOR FIRST TWELVE HOURS AFTER INITIAL FLASH MESSAGE FROM KABUL YESTERDAY ABOUT THE COUP, I AND EMBOFFS KEPT FONSEC SHAHNAWAZ (AND THROUGH HIM, GENERAL ZIA) QUITE FULLY INFORMED OF CONTENTS OF KABUL REPORTING TELS. GOP IS GRATEFUL AND HAS ASKED US TO CONTINUE TO FURNISH ANY INFO THAT WE GET.

2. I AM NOW STARTING TO TAPER OFF OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOP, PARTLY BECAUSE GOP APPARENTLY NOW HAS ITS OWN SOURCES, INCLUDING WHAT IRANIANS ARE FURNISHING AS WELL AS KABUL RADIO REPORTS, AND PARTLY TO AVOID STIMULATING GOP INTO ANY OVER-REACTION. WE HAVE THEREFORE WITHHELD FROM GOP KABUL'S WELL-FOUNDED SPECULATION (KABUL 3247 PARA 5) THAT CONTROL OF KABUL IS NOT SAME AS CONTROL OF COUNTRYSIDE AND THAT GUERRILLA ACTION COULD CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME. WE WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE GOP FACTUAL INFORMATION AS WE GET IT, IF WE THINK IT WOULD CONTRIBUTE MATERIALLY TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF SITUATION, BUT WE ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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OMITTING MOST APPRAISALS AND SPECULATIONS. WE WILL ALSO TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT GOP THINKS.

3. AS SCENARIO UNFOLDS, WE SHOULD JOINTLY CONSIDER WHEN AND HOW TO URGE RESTRAINT ON PAKISTAN AND (PRESUMABLY) IRAN. PAKISTAN HAS BROAD SPECTRUM OF CAPABILITIES FOR MEDDLING ACROSS AFGHAN BORDER, BEGINNING WITH ORAL ENCOURAGEMENT OF PATHANS AND OTHER

TRIBES TO ASSIST THEIR COUSINS ACROSS BORDER, THROUGH ACTIVE
SUPPLY OF WEAPONS, AND ON UP INTO DIRECT MILITARY SUPPORT OF
ANTI-COUP ELEMENTS. KEY TO GOP CHOICES WILL BE ATTITUDE AND
ACTIONS OF SHAH; USG EXHORTATIONS OF GOP WILL HAVE LITTLE FORCE
IF NOT ECHOED BY IRANIANS. I WOULD EXPECT PAKS TO BE CAUTIOUS,
KNOWING DANGERS OF COMBINED AFGHAN/SOV COUNTER-REACTION, BUT
ADVICE FROM THE SHAH COUNSELLING MODERATION WOULD NOT BE
AMISS, IF THE SHAH IS WILLING TO GIVE IT.
HUMMEL

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